NAME ________________________ DATE __________ PERIOD ____

10-6 Study Guide and Intervention

Exponential Growth and Decay

Exponential Decay Depreciation of value and radioactive decay are examples of **exponential decay**. When a quantity decreases by a fixed percent each time period, the amount of the quantity after t time periods is given by $y = a(1 - r)^t$, where a is the initial amount and r is the percent decrease expressed as a decimal.

Another exponential decay model often used by scientists is $y = ae^{-kt}$, where k is a constant.

Example **CONSUMER PRICES As technology advances, the price of many technological devices such as scientific calculators and camcorders goes down. One brand of hand-held organizer sells for \$89.**

a. If its price decreases by 6% per year, how much will it cost after 5 years?

Use the exponential decay model with initial amount \$89, percent decrease 0.06, and time 5 years.

$y = a(1 - r)^t$ Exponential decay formula

$y = 89(1 - 0.06)^5$ $a = 89$, $r = 0.06$, $t = 5$

$y = \$65.32$

After 5 years the price will be \$65.32.

b. After how many years will its price be \$50?

To find when the price will be \$50, again use the exponential decay formula and solve for t.

$y = a(1 - r)^t$ Exponential decay formula

$50 = 89(1 - 0.06)^t$ $y = 50$, $a = 89$, $r = 0.06$

$\frac{50}{89} = (0.94)^t$ Divide each side by 89.

$\log\left(\frac{50}{89}\right) = \log(0.94)^t$ Property of Equality for Logarithms

$\log\left(\frac{50}{89}\right) = t \log 0.94$ Power Property

$t = \frac{\log\left(\frac{50}{89}\right)}{\log 0.94}$ Divide each side by log 0.94.

$t \approx 9.3$

The price will be \$50 after about 9.3 years.

Exercises

1. **BUSINESS** A furniture store is closing out its business. Each week the owner lowers prices by 25%. After how many weeks will the sale price of a \$500 item drop below \$100?

CARBON DATING Use the formula $y = ae^{-0.00012t}$, where a is the initial amount of Carbon-14, t is the number of years ago the animal lived, and y is the remaining amount after t years.

2. How old is a fossil remain that has lost 95% of its Carbon-14?

3. How old is a skeleton that has 95% of its Carbon-14 remaining?

10-6 Study Guide and Intervention *(continued)*

Exponential Growth and Decay

Exponential Growth Population increase and growth of bacteria colonies are examples of **exponential growth**. When a quantity increases by a fixed percent each time period, the amount of that quantity after t time periods is given by $y = a(1 + r)^t$, where a is the initial amount and r is the percent increase (or rate of growth) expressed as a decimal.
Another exponential growth model often used by scientists is $y = ae^{kt}$, where k is a constant.

Example **A computer engineer is hired for a salary of \$28,000. If she gets a 5% raise each year, after how many years will she be making \$50,000 or more?**
Use the exponential growth model with $a = 28{,}000$, $y = 50{,}000$, and $r = 0.05$ and solve for t.

$y = a(1 + r)^t$	Exponential growth formula
$50{,}000 = 28{,}000(1 + 0.05)^t$	$y = 50{,}000$, $a = 28{,}000$, $r = 0.05$
$\frac{50}{28} = (1.05)^t$	Divide each side by 28,000.
$\log\left(\frac{50}{28}\right) = \log(1.05)^t$	Property of Equality of Logarithms
$\log\left(\frac{50}{28}\right) = t \log 1.05$	Power Property
$t = \dfrac{\log\left(\frac{50}{28}\right)}{\log 1.05}$	Divide each side by log 1.05.
$t \approx 11.9$ years	Use a calculator.

If raises are given annually, she will be making over \$50,000 in 12 years.

Exercises

1. **BACTERIA GROWTH** A certain strain of bacteria grows from 40 to 326 in 120 minutes. Find k for the growth formula $y = ae^{kt}$, where t is in minutes.

2. **INVESTMENT** Carl plans to invest \$500 at 8.25% interest, compounded continuously. How long will it take for his money to triple?

3. **SCHOOL POPULATION** There are currently 850 students at the high school, which represents full capacity. The town plans an addition to house 400 more students. If the school population grows at 7.8% per year, in how many years will the new addition be full?

4. **EXERCISE** Hugo begins a walking program by walking $\frac{1}{2}$ mile per day for one week. Each week thereafter he increases his mileage by 10%. After how many weeks is he walking more than 5 miles per day?

5. **VOCABULARY GROWTH** When Emily was 18 months old, she had a 10-word vocabulary. By the time she was 5 years old (60 months), her vocabulary was 2500 words. If her vocabulary increased at a constant percent per month, what was that increase?

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10-6 Skills Practice

Exponential Growth and Decay

Solve each problem.

1. **FISHING** In an over-fished area, the catch of a certain fish is decreasing at an average rate of 8% per year. If this decline persists, how long will it take for the catch to reach half of the amount before the decline?

2. **INVESTING** Alex invests \$2000 in an account that has a 6% annual rate of growth. To the nearest year, when will the investment be worth \$3600?

3. **POPULATION** A current census shows that the population of a city is 3.5 million. Using the formula $P = ae^{rt}$, find the expected population of the city in 30 years if the growth rate r of the population is 1.5% per year, a represents the current population in millions, and t represents the time in years.

4. **POPULATION** The population P in thousands of a city can be modeled by the equation $P = 80e^{0.015t}$, where t is the time in years. In how many years will the population of the city be 120,000?

5. **BACTERIA** How many days will it take a culture of bacteria to increase from 2000 to 50,000 if the growth rate per day is 93.2%?

6. **NUCLEAR POWER** The element plutonium-239 is highly radioactive. Nuclear reactors can produce and also use this element. The heat that plutonium-239 emits has helped to power equipment on the moon. If the half-life of plutonium-239 is 24,360 years, what is the value of k for this element?

7. **DEPRECIATION** A Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) system uses satellite information to locate ground position. Abu's surveying firm bought a GPS system for \$12,500. The GPS depreciated by a fixed rate of 6% and is now worth \$8600. How long ago did Abu buy the GPS system?

8. **BIOLOGY** In a laboratory, an organism grows from 100 to 250 in 8 hours. What is the hourly growth rate in the growth formula $y = a(1 + r)^t$?

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10-6 Practice

Exponential Growth and Decay

Solve each problem.

1. **INVESTING** The formula $A = P\left(1 + \frac{r}{2}\right)^{2t}$ gives the value of an investment after t years in an account that earns an annual interest rate r compounded twice a year. Suppose \$500 is invested at 6% annual interest compounded twice a year. In how many years will the investment be worth \$1000?

2. **BACTERIA** How many hours will it take a culture of bacteria to increase from 20 to 2000 if the growth rate per hour is 85%?

3. **RADIOACTIVE DECAY** A radioactive substance has a half-life of 32 years. Find the constant k in the decay formula for the substance.

4. **DEPRECIATION** A piece of machinery valued at \$250,000 depreciates at a fixed rate of 12% per year. After how many years will the value have depreciated to \$100,000?

5. **INFLATION** For Dave to buy a new car comparably equipped to the one he bought 8 years ago would cost \$12,500. Since Dave bought the car, the inflation rate for cars like his has been at an average annual rate of 5.1%. If Dave originally paid \$8400 for the car, how long ago did he buy it?

6. **RADIOACTIVE DECAY** Cobalt, an element used to make alloys, has several isotopes. One of these, cobalt-60, is radioactive and has a half-life of 5.7 years. Cobalt-60 is used to trace the path of nonradioactive substances in a system. What is the value of k for Cobalt-60?

7. **WHALES** Modern whales appeared 5−10 million years ago. The vertebrae of a whale discovered by paleontologists contain roughly 0.25% as much carbon-14 as they would have contained when the whale was alive. How long ago did the whale die? Use $k = 0.00012$.

8. **POPULATION** The population of rabbits in an area is modeled by the growth equation $P(t) = 8e^{0.26t}$, where P is in thousands and t is in years. How long will it take for the population to reach 25,000?

9. **DEPRECIATION** A computer system depreciates at an average rate of 4% per month. If the value of the computer system was originally \$12,000, in how many months is it worth \$7350?

10. **BIOLOGY** In a laboratory, a culture increases from 30 to 195 organisms in 5 hours. What is the hourly growth rate in the growth formula $y = a(1 + r)^t$?

